

A PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION OF AN INVESTIGATION ON MINOR EXTERNAL ABNORMALITIES IN PSYCHOTIC PATIENTS

D. R. Abeyasinghe

(Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya)

and

E. K. Rodrigo

(General Hospital, Kandy)

Several studies have indicated that minor physical abnormalities are common in Psychotic patients (1, 2).

In this study we set out to test our hypothesis that minor physical abnormalities are equally common in two major groups of non-organic psychosis—i.e. schizophrenia and affective psychosis.

We have examined a consecutive series of 143 psychotic patients who were admitted to General Hospital, Kandy. Of these, there were 73 schizophrenic patients and 68 affective patients. In these patients, external ears, eyes, mouth, the trunk and extremities were examined for the presence of morphological abnormalities.

The results indicate there is no statistically significant difference in the prevalence of morphological abnormalities between these two groups.

When, however, the patients, having only single abnormalities were excluded and when the two groups were compared for patients having multiple abnormalities, a statistically significant difference emerged.

$$X^2 = 16.70 \text{ (significant at 1\% level)}$$

Thus the schizophrenic patients had more multiple morphological abnormalities than manic-depressive patients. Our original hypothesis has been disproved.

If these findings could be confirmed by further investigations the results may indicate that the congenitally determined morphological abnormalities are in some way related to now established genetic predisposition to schizophrenia.

References :

1. Campbell, M., Geller, B., Small, A. M., *et al.* Minor physical abnormalities in young Psychotic children. *Am J. Psychiatry* 5: 573-575, 1978.
2. Steg, J. P. and Rapoport, J. L. Minor physical abnormalities in normal, neurotic, learning disabled, and severely disturbed children. *J. Autism child Schizo.* 5:299-307, 1975.